



Propane Watch

October 14, 1999

Energy Information Administration
Office of Oil & Gas

- U.S. inventories of propane ended the week of October 8, 1999, at an estimated 59.2 million barrels (MMB), down nearly 0.5 MMB from the previous report period on September 30, 1999. Inventories registered declines in all the major regions last week. East Coast inventories fell by less than 0.1 MMB, while Midwest and Gulf inventories recorded similar declines of about 0.2 MMB. Both U.S. and regional inventories remain within or above their respective normal ranges for this time of year, except in the Gulf Coast where inventories remain slightly below the normal range for this same period.
- Propane prices for the first collection cycle of the 1999/2000 heating season, like those for all finished petroleum products, have mirrored the strong recovery in the crude oil markets in recent months. The residential average price for October 4, 1999, was 95.3 cents per gallon, an 8.2 cent increase over last year's price, while the average wholesale price was at 49.7 cents per gallon, an increase of nearly 20 cents. In comparison, benchmark WTI crude oil prices rose from \$15.24 per barrel to \$23.71 per barrel over this same period.

Propane Stocks by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) I, II, and III (Thousand Barrels)

Districts	September 1998	October 1998	Week Ending				
			NA	NA	NA	10/08/99	10/09/98
East Coast (PADD I)	5,526	5,773	NA	NA	NA	^E 5,855	5,848
Midwest (PADD II)	32,859	32,824	NA	NA	NA	^E 27,384	32,803
Gulf Coast (PADD III)	34,331	32,872	NA	NA	NA	^E 23,850	35,839
Total (PADD I-III)	72,716	71,469	NA	NA	NA	^E 57,089	74,490
U.S. Total	76,641	75,250	NA	NA	NA	^E 59,201	77,245

E=Estimated data.

Source: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Monthly Petroleum Supply Reporting System and Form EIA-807, "Propane Telephone Survey."

Propane Prices by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) I and II (Cents per Gallon)

District	Wholesale					Residential				
	NA	NA	NA	10/04/99	10/05/98	NA	NA	NA	10/04/99	10/05/98
East Coast (PADD I)	NA	NA	NA	52.6	33.2	NA	NA	NA	113.3	107.2
New England (PADD IX)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	116.4	112.7
Central Atlantic (PADD IY)	NA	NA	NA	53.5	34.1	NA	NA	NA	114.8	108.0
Lower Atlantic (PADD IZ)	NA	NA	NA	51.7	32.1	NA	NA	NA	106.6	99.9
Midwest (PADD II)	NA	NA	NA	48.6	28.7	NA	NA	NA	81.7	71.9
Average	NA	NA	NA	49.7	29.8	NA	NA	NA	95.3	87.1

NA=Not Available.

Source: Wholesale propane prices are based on Oil Price Information Service. Residential propane prices are available from data supplied by 23 State Energy Offices from October through March on a semi-monthly basis.

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